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USE OF SECONDHAND MATERIAL IN MATTRESSES.

THE ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT DECIDES THAT A LAW PROHIBITING THE USE OF SECONDHAND MATERIAL IN MATTRESSES, BED COMFORTERS, AND QUILTS IS VOID.

The Legislature of Illinois last year passed a law prohibiting the use of secondhand material in mattresses, bed comforters, and quilts which were manufactured for sale, and requiring that when these articles were remade or renovated for the use of the owners they must be sterilized.

The Illinois Supreme Court decided that the prohibition of the use of secondhand material for this purpose was not necessary for the protection of the public health, as the desired result could be obtained by sterilization, and the court declared this part of the law to be unconstitutional. The court, however, said that the provision of the law which required the sterilization of all mattresses, bed comforters, and quilts when remade or renovated for the use of the owners was reasonable and proper.

The opinion is published in this issue of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, page 1019.

STATISTICS OF DISABILITY.

A COMPILATION OF SOME OF THE DATA AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

By B. S. WARREN, Surgeon, and EDGAR SYDENSTRICKER, Public Health Statistician, United States Public Health Service.

In the discussion of health insurance measures for the United States, one of the first questions which has arisen is the extent of disability for which provision will have to be made. Health agencies, national, State, and local, have many records of contagious and infectious diseases, but only for a few diseases and in limited areas are the records sufficiently complete to afford a definite conclusion as to the extent of disability. Exception, of course, should be made of the disability records of the United States Army and Navy. Data as to disability due to other causes than contagious and infectious diseases have been almost completely lacking. In the registration area mortality records may be fairly complete, but estimates of disability based on